

# **EBENEZER**

# United Methodist Church

www.ebenezerum-church.org

January 16

Volume 12 Issue 01

Church's e-mail: ebenezerumc@yahoo.com

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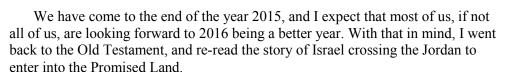
#### **Sunday Services**

- 8:30a Worship Service (Contemporary)
- 9:50a Sunday School
- 11:00a Worship Service (Traditional)
- 6:00p Youth Group (Grades 6-12)
- 6:00p Adult Choir Practice
- 7:00p Every FOURTH SUNDAY United Methodist Women

# of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..." Matthew 28:19 | Solv | Bible | Pastor's Corner — Rev. Eric Lane



"O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever." -- Psalm 107:1



"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and

The day before the people crossed over Jordan, Joshua told them to: "Sanctify yourselves; for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you." (Joshua 3: 5)

You probably know the rest of the story—of how God did do many great wonders. The journey was not an easy one; there were times when things went well, but along the way we see that the people took matters into their own hands, and turned away from God. When they did this, the people encountered difficulties and hard times; yet, when they were obedient to God, even when faced with hard times, they were able to press on towards the goal.

Even when they turned away from God, and faced the consequences of their choices; God did not abandon them. Instead, God remained with them and waited for them to turn back to him.

My point is that, while we hope that 2016 will be a much better year for us, and while we look forward to beginning the New Year right; we really do not know what the future holds for us or our families. But what we do know is that God is with us—to walk ahead of us to prepare the way, beside us to help us along the way, and behind us to protect us. And even when we stray (and we will), God is still there, waiting and ready to receive us back into his grace.

"Father, we thank you for the gift of life, family, and friends. Looking back on the year, we could not have made it except for your loving grace. Thank you for receiving those whom we have loved and see no more, and for the hope that one day we will once again be reunited with them.

As we look forward Lord, we are gazing into the unknown—a land that we have not yet traveled. Lord, I pray that we will allow you to guide us and protect us; and please forgive us when we fail you. May we love one another as you have first loved us; may we seek to do your will in all that we do; and may we walk each day with you by our side. Amen."

Happy New Year!

—Rev. Eric Pane

#### **WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES**

- 6:00p Praise Band Rehearsal
- 7:00p Bible Study Children & Adults.



#### **CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:**

Tues.-Friday: 8:30-1:30 p.m.

Phone: (828) 396-2214

#### **Meetings**

#### **Church Council Meeting**

The Church Council will meet at **4:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 10th.** New Council members need to be present. If you have business to bring before the Council, please contact Boyd Johnson, the new Council Chairperson. All members of the church may attend.

#### **United Methodist Women**

The UMW will meet on January 24th at 7:00 p.m. Nancy Sears will present the program. Judy McCrary and Bleaka Hollar are in charge of refreshments. All women of the church are encouraged to attend.

#### **One Service Sunday**

There will be one worship service on **Sunday, January 31st at 10:30 a.m.** Sunday school will be held at 9:00 a.m.

#### **February Newsletter Items**

Please have information and articles for the February newsletter in by **January 19th.** Thank you. —Editor

## **Holiday Office Hours**

The Church Office will be **closed on Friday, January 1st.** Bulletin items for
Sunday, January 3rd, need to be in by
9:00 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 31st.

#### **New Wednesday Study**

Cindy will be starting a new Bible study on Wednesday evenings based on the book, "Happiness" by Randy Alcorn. The first class will be on **January 6th at 7:00** p.m.

# How do I hide God's word in my heart? Memorize it!

But you do not live as your human nature tells you to; instead, you live as the Spirit tells you to—if, in fact, God's Spirit lives in you. Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

-Romans 8:9 GNT

### Something to Pray About by Cindy Sears

I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power <sup>20</sup> that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms.

-Ephesians 1:19-20



There is a song we used to sing in the Baptist church I attended that speaks of the "pow'r in the blood." I was reminded of this song during a Sunday school lesson as we read about "the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him" from Ephesians (see above). The question in my mind is: "Do I really believe that God has given me power to live a righteous and productive life for Him in this world?"

Listen to the words of this song:

#### Verse 1:

Would you be free from the burden of sin? There's pow'r in the blood, pow'r in the blood; Would you o'er evil a victory win? There's wonderful pow'r in the blood.

#### **Chorus:**

There is pow'r, pow'r, wonder-working pow'r In the blood of the Lamb;

There is pow'r, pow'r, wonder-working pow'r In the precious blood of the Lamb.

#### Verse 4:

Would you do service for Jesus your King? There's pow'r in the blood, pow'r in the blood; Would you live daily His praises to sing? There's wonderful pow'r in the blood.

In Romans Chapter 6, the Apostle Paul reminds us of the power found in belief in Christ, the Savior:

And we know that our old being has been put to death with Christ on his cross, in order that the power of the sinful self might be destroyed, so that we should now longer be the slaves of sin. For when we die, we are set free from the power of sin. Since we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live



There is Powe

im the

with him...In the same way you are to think of yourselves as dead, so far as sin is concerned...<u>Sin must no longer rule in your mortal bodies</u>, so that you obey the desires of your natural self. Nor must you surrender any part of yourselves to sin to be used for wicked purposes...Sin must not be your master; for you do not live under law but under God's grace.

--Romans 6:5-14 (selected)

Notice that sin is to *no longer rule in our <u>mortal</u> bodies*. We do not have to wait until we have our eternal bodies! Sin has no power over us now! Do we really believe this, though? Aren't we always making excuses for our failure to live righteously by saying that we are weak in the flesh? But Paul says that we have the power in the blood of Christ and from the indwelling of His Holy Spirit to live righteously now!



#### **Suggested Reading**

#### Drinking in America: Our Secret History by Susan Cheever, c2015

"Upon all the new settlements the Spaniards make, the first thing they do is build a church," wrote the British captain Thomas Walduck in 1708, "The first thing the Dutch do upon a new colony is to build them a fort, but the first thing the English do, be it in the most remote part of the world, or amongst the most barbarous Indians, is to set up a tavern or drinking house." The American Revolution was hatched in taverns where men shored up their resolve and courage by drinking rum and beer. The Mayflower landed where it did, because the travelers were running out of beer, which was used to pay the sailors and keep the passengers happy. There are more intriguing tidbits of information about how the intake of alcohol has helped to shape the character and formation of the United States. In this book by Susan Cheever, a former heavy drinker and child of an alcoholic parent, both those against and for drinking will find plenty of evidence to bolster their claims. (Available at the Lenoir Library.)

# How Would God Vote? Why the Bible Commands You to Be a Conservative by David Klinghoffer, c2008

Klinghoffer, a non-Christian Jew, uses the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments, to illuminate the worldview set forth in the Scriptures and how that relates to contemporary political issues. In most instances, he believes God would vote on the conservative side of modern debated issues, such as, immigration, gay marriage, abortion, care for the poor, war and peace and other issues. He finds a pattern in how conservatives and liberals line up on both sides of these and other issues, and believes that it derives from "radically different ways of looking at the world: one in consonance with the Bible, the other very much not." But he does not stay completely on the Republican side of all issues, and finds that some Republicans have waffled on important issues—moving away from God's view as defined in the Scriptures.

Except for one or two places where Klinghoffer seems to misread parts of the New Testament (at least we Christians would say so), he makes some very interesting and valid points about how God would vote on various issues by looking at how God has chosen to manifest Himself to the Israelites and through Jesus and the apostles. Klinghoffer's take on some of the Old Testament laws and events from his Jewish perspective are especially enlightening. He explains, for instance, that children are important because they are the ones who will transmit ancient traditions and religious beliefs to prosperity. Children are not just there to receive parental affection or governmental nurturance. Liberal-minded people would be just as satisfied with a cat or dog; conservatives need children to pass on their heritage, their faith, to the next generation. Children are "our moral future."

Another part I found intriguing was how Klinghoffer and most Jews view the Islamic religion. The description of Ishmael in the Bible as a wild-ass, a symbol of violence, fits well with his descendents. Yet, the Bible later shows Ishmael helping his half brother Isaac bury Abraham. From this, Klinghoffer believes that the Muslims are redeemable as a people. The Bible shows patterns that history will follow. Ishmael's story "is one of alienation, jealousy, outrage, and violence—but with repentance, reconciliation, and renewed commitment to the ethical norms of Abrahamic religion at the end…biblical tradition insists that Ishmael is redeemable, and that Islam can be turned to the good."

On the other hand, Klinghoffer makes a good point that we should be wary of the European Union, because it is based on atheism, and denies all religious traditions and

### **Special Giving**

Ebenezer UMC and its members, gratefully acknowledge the following special gifts received in December:

#### In Memory of Ranny Frye by:

Barbara Frye Jerry Lee Hunt, Jr. Chuck & Tammy Adams Leonard & Jeanette Teague

**In Memory of Phyllis Brady by:** Chuck & Tammy Adams

In Memory of Missy Mullinax by:

Chuck & Tammy Adams

**In Memory of J. B. Coffey by:** Stephen & Linda Coffey

In Memory of Steve McRary by:

Cinda McRary

In Honor of Lord's Super Ministry Cooks by:

Bill Campbell

In Honor of My Church Family by:

Bill Campbell

In Honor of the Woods Family by:

Anonymous

In Honor of the Adult Choir by:

Bill Campbell

(See also pp. 4 & 7)



beliefs. They are involved in radical secularization. No wonder many Bible scholars see this union as a forerunner of the coming Antichrist. (Available at the Lenoir Library.)

-Cindy Sears



#### Gifts for Christ

# In Memory of

**J. B. Coffey** by Patty Coffey & The Herman Family

Ralph & Phyllis Collins, Leo & Polly McRary, & Steve McRary by Jason & Candace Collins

Zachary Cullop & Missy Mullinax by Barbara Ferguson

**Bob Sears & Missy Mullinax** by Nancy Sears

Keith Bradford by Grace Bradford

Jack D. Frye, Ranny Frye, Zetta Mae Frye & Pinola & June Holman by Barbara Frye

Ranny Frve by Angie Frye

Our Parents, Paul & Agnes Hill and Wade & Virginia McRary by Larry & Alice Hill

Wilbur Martin by JoAnn Knepp

Wilbur Martin, Jim & Pearl McCrary, & Exie & Berlie Stafford by ?

Peggy Duncan and Alvin Lane by Eric & Beth Lane

Keith Bradford by Lindsay Bradford

Wade Austin & Charles Newton by Anthony & Sherry Austin

**Lois Watson, Max Watson, & Carl Kohnle** by Jerry & Marilyn Kohnle

**Keith McCrary and Jim & Pearl McCrary** by Kim Knepp

Missy Mullinax, Dennis Mullinax, Brian Mullinax & Ranny Frye by Robert Mullinax

**Ginger Webb & Jeannie Dunlap** by David & Linda Abernethy

Frances Baker by Ricky & Shawn Baker

George Thomas Hutchinson by Celeste Creaseman

**J. C. & Lois Ellis, and Bob Sears** by Wayne, Kim, Jordan, & Tyler Ellis

Zetta Mae Frye, Corrine DeVries, Jack Frye, & Ranny Frye by Gerald Frye

**J. C. & Lois Ellis and Bob Sears** by Wayne, Kim, Jordan, & Tyler Ellis

Ken & Rachel Parlier, Alice Irene Hamby, & Virginia (Ginny) Hamby by Roy & Tina Hamby

Rick & Edith Lyda, Eugene & Volenia Helton by Jerry

& Loretta Helton

**Amira Elizabeth & Keith McCrary** by Darren & Sarah McCrary

**Keith McCrary** by John & Kelly McCrary

Keith McCrary, Linda Bowman, & Berlie & Exie Stafford by Judy McCrary

Steve McRary by Cinda McRary

**Leo & Polly McRary and John & Wilda Cole** by Randy & Marsha McRary

Gerald Miller by Barbara Miller

Gene Sears, Babe & Brintie Sears, and Hugh & Lizzie Reid by Cindy Sears

Michael Triplette, Sara Jane Miller, & Greg Miller by Weston & Shannon Triplette

Margaret Mooney by Kaye Seagle

Missy Mullinax by Cheryl Vosdingh

Tom Harrison by Jo Nell Harrison

**Albert & Tiffany Miller** by Lyle & Angie Miller

Missy Mullinax, Dennis Mullinax, Levi Mullinax, Justin Clontz, & Josh Waggoner by Regina Mullinax

**Billie Starnes** by Lois Starnes

### In Honor of

Blanche Kohnle by Jason & Candace Collins

**Eric Lane** by Angie Frye

**Dwight Kelley** by Rosalind and Shane Kelley

Casey, Meredith, Ragan & Macey Knepp by JoAnn Knepp

**Judy McCrary and Russ & JoAnn Knepp** by Kim Knepp

Ruby Martin by?

**Ezma Austin & Alice Newton** by Anthony & Sherry Austin

The Baker Boys, Judy Smith & Marley, and Donald Baker by Ricky & Shawn Baker

Paul & Edna Hart, and Emma Wade by Grace Bradford

(Continued on page 7)



# January Celebrations







- 1st—Mary Teague
- 4th—Kyle Settlemyre, Rhyan Stone
- 5th—Jason Collins
- 10th—Juliette Haas, Cole McCrary
- 14th—Makayla Settlemyre
- 15th—Emily Johnson
- 16th—Rosalind Kelley, Anna Miller
- 18th—Chuck Adams, Kasey Smith
- 19th—Lindsay Bradford
- 20th—Barbara Ferguson, Keith Keener
- 21st—Kennedy Behmer
- 23rd—Tyler Ellis
- 25th—Dwight Kelley, Dawn Yount
- 27th—Eric Lane, Amanda Simmons, Stephanie Shook, Weston Triplette
- 28th—Blanche Kohnle
- 30th—Kevin Sears
- 31st—Rachel Poe



## Happy Anniversary!

- 4th—Eric & Beth Lane
- 27th—Anthony & Sherry Austin
- 27th—David & Sonya Crouse

## **Amazing Grace DVD**

Our church library now has a copy of the movie, "Amazing Grace." This movie dramatizes the fight by William Wilberforce and his compatriots to abolish the slave trade in Great Britain's Empire. In the movie, we also get a glimpse of the man who wrote the song, "Amazing Grace," John Newton, who was William's friend and pastor that encouraged Wilberforce to take up the battle and continue to fight through a long series of setbacks and attacks from those who relied on the trade for their businesses and investments. The war may be long, but God sustains his warriors and gives victory in the end. Praise to God for providing us with such warriors as Wilberforce!

Study guides and video clips are provided with the DVD. Put the DVD in a computer to access the guides. ☆



<u>Aco</u>	<u>lyte Schedule - JANUARY</u>
3rd	Cole McCrary
10th	Kevin Miller
17th	Payton Lyda
24th	Makayla Settlemyre

Savanna Creaseman

	Nurse	ery Schedule - JANUARY
3rd	8:30	Boyd & Emily Johnson
	11:00	Beth Lane
10th	8:30	Teresa Simmons & Dawn Yount
	11:00	Angie Miller
17th	8:30	Kay Gilbert & Tammy Adams
	11:00	Nancy Sears
24th	8:30	Heather Stone & Kim Ellis
	11:00	Rosalind Kelley
31st	10:30	Kay Gilbert

### **Our Military**

Please pray for the men and women who protect our freedoms.

**Nick Austin Kyle Blair Anthony Coffey** Paul Coffey Joev Deal **Dakota Fox Ethan Fox Andy Gaillard Ricky Garland Jason Gibson** 



**Trev Hefner** Chris Kaisenski **Shane McRary** William E. McRary **Travis Miller** Joey Moore Jamie Mullinax **Michael Potts Alex Shealy Hunter Tolbert** Josh Yount

## Quotable Quotes

"To doubt a baby's humanness is to doubt my own. What dies in an abortion? A baby, ves: and also some essential portion of the participants' humanity."

--Tom Gilson



#### 3 on 3 Basketball Tourney

You think you're good. Prove it! Grab two of your friends and jump into a game of

> 3 on 3 Basketball

Saturday Jan. 2nd All Day

Call Kim Ellis at 396-1320 for more details and to sign up. Teams pay a fee to enter.

Hamburgers and hot dogs will be sold during the tournament. If you don't play, come and watch and eat!

For Belize Mission Trip.

# **January Fundraisers & Events**

#### **Red Cross Blood Drive**

# MONDAY JANUARY 11TH 3-7:00 PM

Our annual winter blood drive in memory of Leo McRary will be coming up soon. Please tell your friends and co-workers, and ask them to give so that others may live.

We will serve hot soup and sandwiches to the donors, and ask that are members help supply the soup and some sweets. Thank you.

To volunteer to help, please see Dawn Yount for more information.

## Van Fund Update

"Are we there yet?"

As of December 28th, we have—drum roll, please!

\$9,902.99!

in the Van Fund.

Who is going to step up and give us \$97.01 to make it an even \$10.000?

We thank you for your help in building up this fund. It is beginning to look like we are going to make it this time.



## Poor Man's Supper

In Memory of Missy Mullinax

Saturday January 9th 5-700 PM

It may be called a Poor Man's supper, but it is a southern staple and good, good eating! Join us for pinto beans, cornbread, potatoes & onions, slaw, and dessert.

Donations are requested. Proceeds go to the annual cancer fundraiser, "Relay for Life."



## Belize Yard Sale

Tired of it? Wrong size? Forgot you had it? Want to buy something newer?

Bring your old and tired to us for the

BELIZE YARD SALE SATURDAY JANUARY 23RD 8 AM—1 PM

We will do our best to get rid of your stuff, and you can help us raise money for the **Belize Mission Trip.** 



## **Prayer Group**

A group of people are now meeting on

## Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

to lift up prayers for the church, our ministries, and for individuals who need

healing—physical, financial, and spiritual. Anyone may join the group, which meets in the Heavenly Sonlighters Classroom in the old fellowship hall.

We invite you to join us and hope that you will seriously consider helping us lift up all our concerns and desires to our Lord on Sunday mornings.

#### Gifts for Christ, con't

(Continued from page 4)

Hoke & Cleo Clark, and Judy McCrary by Becky Clark

Clemontine Hutchinson by Celeste Creaseman

Miss Carsen & Baylor Hamby by Roy & Tina Hamby

Steve & Samantha Kohnle & Emily, Scott & Rhonda Kohnle & Family, Amber & David Windsor, & Jerry Paron by Jerry & Marilyn Kohnle

Blanche Kohnle by Jerry & Marilyn Kohnle

**Judy McCrary** by Darren & Sarah McCrary and John & Kelly McCrary

Garry & Phyllis Minton & Hunter Tolbert by John & Kelly McCrary

Tammy, John, Kim & Darren by Judy McCrary

Addie Sears by Cindy Sears

**Loretta Triplette** by Weston & Shannon Triplette

Blanche Kohnle's Family by Blanche Kohnle

**Eric Lane, Barbara Ferguson, Barbara Frye, and Caldwell Hospice** by Robert Mullinax



#### A Plan for Success?

"Need a plan for success, or at least independent living? It isn't new. Stop turning to government as a first resource. Get married before you have children, stay married and if things get tough seek counseling. Stay in school. Don't take drugs. Develop good character and a sound work ethic. If a good job with a future isn't available where you live, move to a city that offers more opportunity, or start a small business.

In the bidding war for votes, the left is preaching a message of envy, greed and entitlement. Human history proves that message doesn't improve a life. The old values worked. If you're a millennial, ask your grandparents about them, why they worked and how we lost sight of them along the way. Since these values succeeded for previous generations, why don't we reclaim them?"

--Cal Thomas, Oct. 22, 2015

Although this remains good advice, it may not lead to success in today's world. The following books will give you a good idea of why the deck is stacked against many people who are earnestly trying to make a living in the U. S.: \$2.00 a Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America by Kathryn J. Edin & H. Luke Shaefer; Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting by in America by Barbara Ehrenreich; and Saving Capitalism: for the Many, Not for the Few by Robert B. Reich. (All three are available at the Lenoir Library.)

## Something, con't

And what about what Jesus told us:

"I am telling you the truth: those who believe in me will do what I do—yes, they will do even greater things, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask for in my name, so that the Father's glory will be shown through the Son. If you ask me for anything in my name, I will do it."

-John 14:12-14 GNT

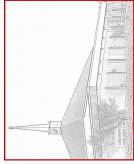
"But when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will be filled with power, and you will be witnesses for me..." -- Acts 1:8a GNT

It seems to me that our emphasis upon the weakness of the flesh and our inborn tendency to rebel against God needs to be muted a little, and more emphasis placed upon the power that we have in Christ Jesus and through the Holy Spirit. We are indeed indwelt by God! Shout it from the rooftops! Cherish this truth in your hearts and minds! The world will be a much less scary place for us if we step up and BELIEVE in GOD's POWER within us, as well as, His power in the world.

I struggle with this truth constantly. So often, I whine and complain, or fall into periods of anxiety, because I forget the power available for me in Christ. Pray that God will help us all to believe on Him and in the power He provides to us; so that we may live for Him and to do His work in a fallen world. This work and righteous living should be a part of every aspect of our lives. We are not all called to "Christian ministry;" yet we are all called to witness by our righteous living and working to help make the world a better place to live in all that we do.







EBENEZER UMC
Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

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April	

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Every Sunday: 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:50 a.m. Sunday school 11:00 a.m. Worship	Church Office is now closed on Mondays	See p. 4 for Nursery and Acolyte Lists	Every Wed.: 6 pm: Praise Band 7 pm: Children and Adult Bible studies		Church Office Closed	2 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament—All Day see p. 6
8	4	5	9		HAPPINEWYEAR	9 Poor Man 's Supper— 5-7 PM, see p. 6
10 Church Council— 4:30 PM	11 Blood Drive—2:30— 7:00 PM, see p. 2	12	13 14		15	16
17	One has a moral a mora	19 Feb. Newsletter items due today	20 21		22	23 Belize Mission Yard Sale—8-1 PM, see p. 6
24 UMW—7 PM, see p. 2	25	26	27 Rev. Eric Lane 28  Happy Birthday		29	30 Private Party
31 ONE SERVICE Sunday, 10:30 AM, see p. 2						